



Chancellor's Report

Chancellor John Pugh

uas.alaska.edu/chancellor
June 2008 Meeting

UAS Projects Record Number of Graduates

A record number of degrees were presented at Southeast Alaska's regional university the weekend of May 3, 2008. The University of Alaska Southeast projects 348 degrees for the 2007-08 academic year, up from 276 degrees last year. The tally includes 125 graduate, 136 undergraduate and 87 Associate degrees. An additional 80+ occupational endorsements and undergraduate and graduate certificates were conferred, up from 22 in 2007. UAS Director of Institutional Research Pat Moore notes that final numbers won't be confirmed until August, after degrees are audited.

"This is the largest and most diverse class in UAS history in terms of ethnicity and types of degrees being awarded," said Chancellor John Pugh.

Sporting a mortarboard with painted salmon, artist, naturalist and author Ray Troll received an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts for his unique ability to combine art and science at both the Ketchikan and Juneau ceremonies. Troll's humorous remarks were well received by all in attendance.



**"This is the largest
and most diverse
class in UAS
history..."**

— *Chancellor John Pugh*

The Sitka ceremony included the presentation of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Island Institute and Sitka Symposium founders Carolyn Servid and Dorik Mechau.

Theatre in the Rough founders, performers and designers Katie Jensen and Aaron Elmore were honored in Juneau with a Meritorious Service Award for distinguished contributions to the performing arts.

At the Juneau ceremony, Seattle University president Father Stephen Sundborg presented the commencement address. Father Sundborg's Juneau roots go back to his early education in Juneau at St. Anne's school and Juneau-Douglas High School. He moved to Fairbanks when his father, George Sundborg, became editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. George Sundborg, now 95 and living in Seattle, was an at-large elected delegate to the Alaska State Constitutional Convention. Though Stephen Sundborg left Juneau 50 years ago, he assured graduates, "You can leave Juneau and leave Alaska, but Juneau and Alaska will never leave you."

Something to Celebrate: Native Graduation Event



The growing number of Alaska Natives making their way through the University of Alaska Southeast was reflected at a celebration for Alaska Native members of the UAS Class of 2008. UAS Director of Institutional Research Pat Moore projects that once degrees are audited, a record 15% of UAS graduates will be Alaska Native.

At the celebration held in the Juneau campus Egan Library the afternoon of Saturday May 3, Associate of Arts graduate Lyle James addressed the group of family, friends and co-workers. "Today is an exciting and almost overwhelming day, and it is good to see everyone," he said. "This encourages us."

The teacher at Yakoos Da Kaahidi alternative high school spoke in eloquent Tlingit as he introduced a song he composed with help from UAS faculty David Katzeek and wife and Native and Rural Center Director Kolene James. Then he led the Wooch Een (definition: Working Together) dance group in the powerful voice of a warrior, keeping time by hitting a walking stick on the floor.

Mary Folletti graduated with a BA in Education and plans to go on to the MAT program. She addressed the group on behalf of PITAAS students (Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools) Program. Folletti told the story of her friend Rikki Tagaban, who as he drove to a recent conference, noticed an eagle flying overhead. It was carrying a stick, presumably for its nest. "You also worked hard for that stick," Folletti told her colleagues. "I encourage you all to find that stick and take it home."

Phytoplankton Workshops Hope to Grow Shellfish Industry

The University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan Fisheries Technology program is holding a series of phytoplankton collection and monitoring workshops for regional shellfish growers. The first was held April 25-26, 2008 at the UAS Ketchikan Technical Center.

The two day workshop provided training to shellfish growers on collection, sampling and identification of phytoplankton, including those species that cause harmful and eventually toxic algal blooms that can lead to paralytic shellfish poisoning, or red tide. Appropriately collecting, sampling and identifying these microscopic organisms can help shellfish farmers better understand bloom dynamics as they relate to shellfish production. Relatively little is known about harmful algal bloom dynamics in Southeast Alaska and increased knowledge may provide useful information to shellfish growers and harvesters.

Ketchikan is partnering with groups or individuals willing to collect water samples on a regular basis to monitor for phytoplankton blooms. UAS Ketchikan will provide equipment to growers. This pilot monitoring program: the Southeast Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom (SEAHAB) Monitoring Partnership, will provide continuing resources for monitoring as well as assess phytoplankton on a continuous basis to gain a better understanding of HAB events in the region. The ultimate goal is to better develop a regional shellfish industry.

UA President Mark Hamilton is excited by the possibilities. At the Board of Regents meeting in Ketchikan April 16-18, he said, "The confluence of leading edge academic research combined with the commitment to share the emerging knowledge is the essence of the University contribution to the economy. Knowing the threats to shell fish and understanding the ideal conditions for shipment both protect the product and add to its value by arriving at market healthy and alive. These are top notch scientists who seek advice and observations from the people who are involved in the shell fish industry on a daily basis. We are very proud of the faculty at the Ketchikan campus."

Two nationally recognized researchers in phytoplankton monitoring presented at the workshop. Steve Morton Ph.D., is from NOAA's National Center for Coastal Ocean Science Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research in Charleston, South Carolina and Vera Trainer Ph.D., is the Director of the Harmful Algal Bloom Program at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

Nuclear Awareness Conference: Thought Provoking and Impressive

A three-day conference that brought together activists and speakers from as far away as the Marshall Islands and Japan was held on the UAS Juneau campus April 18-20. The conference included a keynote talk by Ms. Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the bombing of Hiroshima.



According to an article by Alan Suderman in the Juneau Empire, the now 75-year old Sasamori said she barely survived being so close to the bomb when it detonated. She was badly burned and spent five days drifting in and out of consciousness before her parents found her. Her face at the time was so disfigured that her parents couldn't tell the front of her head from the back.

Other speakers included Mayor James Matayoshi, an activist on behalf of the Marshallese people in the aftermath of the nuclear testing conducted by the U.S. and Dr. Holly Barker, an author and senior advisor to the Marshallese government. Highlights included a readers theater presentation in the Marshallese language by Skagway highschool students who visited the Marshall Islands for a project that planted the seed for the conference.

The three-day event was a joint project of the Hiroshima Peace Museum, The Marshall Island Government, Veteran's for Peace, Alpha Phi Omega (Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter) and the UAS Chancellor's office. It was largely organized by student Forest Kvasnikoff.

The closing talk was given by Victoria Sampson, who works as a research analyst for the Center for Defense Information. One of her specialties is missile defense. She addressed several issues, including Juneau's role in Ballistic Missile Defense and the Lena Point Radar. She questioned whether it is worth the 180 billion dollars projected to be spent by 2013 on ballistic missile defense systems and if they create a false sense of security given a dubious testing track record. She also warned that such systems could potentially provoke volatile regimes like North Korea.

In his closing remarks, UAS history faculty David Noon noted a lack of basic democratic control over nuclear policy starting with the Manhattan Project. "The whole history of nuclear weapons has been shrouded from the public," he said. He observed that a prevailing feeling is that the public doesn't have control, hence a reason not to come to such a conference. "Now that this is over you are welcome to go back to not thinking about it," he said. "Or do something about it."

Faculty Senate Announces Second Annual (2007-2008) Faculty Excellence Awards

Faculty Excellence in Teaching
Professor Priscilla Schulte, Anthropology
Department of Social Sciences, Ketchikan Campus

Faculty Excellence in Research
Professor Clive Thomas, Political Science
Department of Social Sciences, Juneau Campus

Faculty Excellence in Service
Associate Professor Sherry Tamone, Biology
Department of Natural Sciences, Juneau Campus

